

Latimer, Becky

✓mj 289426

**From:** Latimer, Becky  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 10:20 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** 2019-281-S

Dear Tom Regan,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

- Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/117238>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
Becky Latimer

**Latimer, Becky**

**From:** Easterling, Deborah  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 9:47 AM  
**To:** Latimer, Becky  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Docket No 2019-281-S - complaint.

**From:** Tom Regan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 9:40 PM  
**To:** PSC\_Contact <Contact@psc.sc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Docket No 2019-281-S - complaint.

Dear PSC:

This email is in reference to above docket: Palmetto Utilities, Inc. which is requesting another rate increase from \$52.10 to \$66.62 per month. This flat fee is not representative of usage.

As a CFO for a gas utility in my previous career - base charge allows for Fixed Costs - but usage (differential pricing) makes up the other significant cost.

One issue that needs to be addressed is the growth in residential and commercial building in the Northeast part Richland/Kershaw Counties. I don't see in the information I could access online about the revenue growth due to new connections.

Second issue: What is the burden on developer for financial cost for sewer and of course water. Appears (from what I can assess) the developers may have an advantage and a disproportionate cost is being burdened on current customers. Gas and electric utilities don't have this kind of base charge. (and that is what this is). What is the phase in revenue enhancement from new connects.

Third: Look at this simple chart. Never should be allowed.

Date:	Base Charge:	\$ increase	% increase
2020 Rate	\$ 66.62		
2018-19 rate	\$ 52.10	\$ 14.52	21.80%
Prior to 2018	\$ 44.00	\$ 22.62	33.95%

Now what business - and this is a corporation (regulated) can have this type of increase in a competitive market - none (not even the pharmaceutical industry).

That is why we need the PSC and Public Affairs to say no to this Docket.

Previous bad decisions for a utility (financial or management) should not burden the current users. A differential pricing for new connects after January 2020 - for example should pay differential pricing for a new home. Part of the cost to build a new home and expand franchise and # of new connects.

Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,

Tom Regan

Columbia, SC